

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/574,570

Examiner

Dave Robertson

Applicant(s)

HAVEKOST ET AL.

Art Unit

2121

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 1/7/2011.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-17, 19 and 20.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.  
(a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached  
1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.  
(b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.  
**Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).**
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date 2/21/2011
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date 3/25/11 (attached).
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_.

/Dave Robertson/  
Examiner, Art Unit 2121

**DETAILED ACTION**

1. This is an Examiners Amendment and Reasons for Allowance of all claims pending after entry of the amendments herein. Claims 1-17, 19, and 20 are allowed.

***Response to Amendment***

2. Applicant amends claims 1-18 to address rejections previously entered under 35 U.S.C. 112 and 101, now reciting structure and functionality associated with a graphical user interface operating on a process control system. Accordingly, the rejections are withdrawn.

***Examiner's Amendment***

3. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Atty Jeremy Protas (Reg. No. 61,681) on 3/25/2011.

**In the claims:**

Please cancel claim 18.

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

1. (Amended) A graphical user interface for a process control system that includes a plurality of data inputs and a variety of alarms for said data inputs, the interface comprising:

a main panel display including a plurality of alarm indicators, wherein each of the alarm indicators includes a visual representation of an active alarm for a data input from one or more of a control module, an equipment module, or a processing unit and provides indicia of alarm priority and alarm age; and

an alarm profile display providing contextual information corresponding to a selected one of the plurality of alarm indicators wherein the contextual information includes ~~[[(+)]]~~ another alarm indicator to which the selected alarm indicator is a parent, the alarm profile display including a plurality of alarm profiles wherein active alarms are grouped by at least one or more of time span, plant area, process unit and equipment module, and

wherein the alarm profiles are super imposable on a process graphic display so that alarm profiles can be seen in the spatial context of equipment schematics depicted in the process graphic display.

***Reasons for Allowance***

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Applicant's Amendments filed 1/7/2011 and Remarks therewith (see Remarks, pg. 11-12) are persuasive with respect to Bristol (US Pat. No. 6,535,122) in view of Ashcraft et al. (US Pat. No. 6,810,337) and Havekost et al. (US Pat. No. 6,810,337) for claim 19 as amended 1/7/2011. As claim 1 is amended herein to recite further aspects of claim 19 by full incorporation of limitations from claim 18 (with claim 18 now cancelled), claim 1 is similarly allowed for the reasons given in the aforementioned Remarks.

Examiner further cites Shmickley et al. (US Appl. Pub. 2004/0051739) teaching hierarchical display of alarms, however, even in view of Shmickley et al., the closest prior art Bristol does not teach or fairly suggest in view of the prior art of record, the particular combination of alarm user interface features as recited in independent claims 1 and 19 as presently amended.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

The prior art made of record and listed on the attached PTO Form 892 but not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dave Robertson whose telephone number is (571)272-8220. The examiner can normally be reached on 9 am to 5 pm, M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Albert Decady can be reached on (571) 272-3819. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Dave Robertson/  
Examiner, Art Unit 2121